

By: 013

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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B. Activities of Unions Adhering to the Federation of Unions (Communist-Dominated)

5. Hanna Zarga led a meeting of textile workers on 13 March at Atiyah Shaykhani's house in Hadet to discuss forming a textile workers' union. A committee was formed at this meeting to contact men and women workers and to transmit information sent to the proposed union from Beirut (presumably from the Federation of Unions). Following a second meeting which was scheduled for 20 March, the committee intended to apply to the Department of Social Affairs for a union permit.
6. The general committee of the typesetters' union invited the typesetters to a meeting. Despite the extensive publicity concerning the meeting, only thirteen persons attended. The only subject discussed was the question of the collection of funds for aiding Mustafa 'Aris in prison, and for giving financial aid to his wife.
7. On 14 March the wood polishers met at the Federation of Unions' headquarters to elect a new council for the Union. When it became apparent that the majority of those present were communist and that therefore, the new council would be communist, Muhyi-al-Din Nahhas (who was present as representative of the Department of Social Affairs of the Ministry of National Economy), by raising certain legal points, succeeded in having the meeting postponed for twenty-five days. Source states that Nahhas hoped to be able to bring a number of non-Communist workers to the next meeting.

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* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Saliba's name was not listed as one of the members of the Central Committee elected on 2 February 1949, as given in ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

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